

Final Statement of Massachusetts Probation Service

The Massachusetts Probation Service (MPS) has appreciated the opportunity to be a part of the Special Commission to Reduce the Recidivism of Sex Offenders (SORC) and contribute to its important work. We would like to thank fellow stakeholders who participated and worked together throughout the Commission's existence. Special thanks are due to Senator Brownsberger and Representative Brodeur for taking on the responsibility of co-chairing SORC and Anne Johnson Landry and Patrick Prendergast for supporting them in those duties.

As the Commonwealth's largest community corrections agency, we're committed to reducing recidivism across the state. Doing so will result in less victims, safer communities, more law-abiding and productive lives for probationers and better return on investment for taxpayers. In order to achieve these results, the MPS is dedicated to its ongoing efforts to build an evidence-based organization. Evidence-based organizations employ empirically proven strategies to achieve positive outcomes in their work.

A significant part of building an evidence-based MPS is providing our Probation Officers with more time to spend with the highest risk probationers, sex offenders included. In spending more time with the riskiest people, understanding what dynamic factors are driving their behavior and case planning to intervene with those dynamic factors, Probation Officers will be able to more effectively influence positive behavior change in probationers. Structuring, planning and implementing such behavior change with fidelity requires significant effort and resources on behalf of the MPS.

While building an evidence-based MPS is an ambitious undertaking, it is more importantly, a worthwhile endeavor. Whether it be in the area of supervising sex offenders or other groups of probationers, positive outcomes in the realm of community corrections go far beyond statistics. More than anything, achieving positive outcomes for the MPS means less victims of crime and safer communities for the citizens of the Commonwealth. Despite SORC ending, the MPS is committed to collaborating with all stakeholders in an effort to continuously improve the delivery of public value to Massachusetts.